




To the Chairman and Members of the
Sanitary Authority,
The Bridge End, Corbridge, Northw.
Gentlemen,

I beg to present my Annual Report
together with a Statistical Return of Births and
Deaths, & a Tabular Statement of new cases of
Infectious Sickness for the year ending 31st Dec. 1893.

During January, February, & March
the infectious diseases prevalent were Scarlet Fever,
Enteric Fever, two cases of Membranous Croup, one
of continued Fever, & two of Erysipelas. The 24 cases
of scarlet fever all occurred in the Western sub-
district containing the mining villages of Aberkemp,
Jondru & Cullandruas, & these being thickly populated
and no Hospital being available for isolating first
cases, the spread of this highly infectious sickness is
not to be wondered at.

Of enteric fever 4 cases appeared,
of these 3 happened in one house, 9, Jenkins Row,
Aberkemp; To the unhealthiness of this row of
cottages in its surroundings your attention has often
been directed. The other case took place at Ewenny.
The house was visited by the County Council
Medical Officer & myself. The 2 cases of mem-
branous croup also occurred at Aberkemp. The
case of continued fever took place at the Rectory,
Brychurch, where another case broke out a year
or so ago, I then attributed the disease to the probable
pollution of spring water by a flood in the stream
flowing through the village. Of the two cases of
erysipelas one appeared at Aberkemp, & the other
at Porthcawl. Influenza again appeared at the



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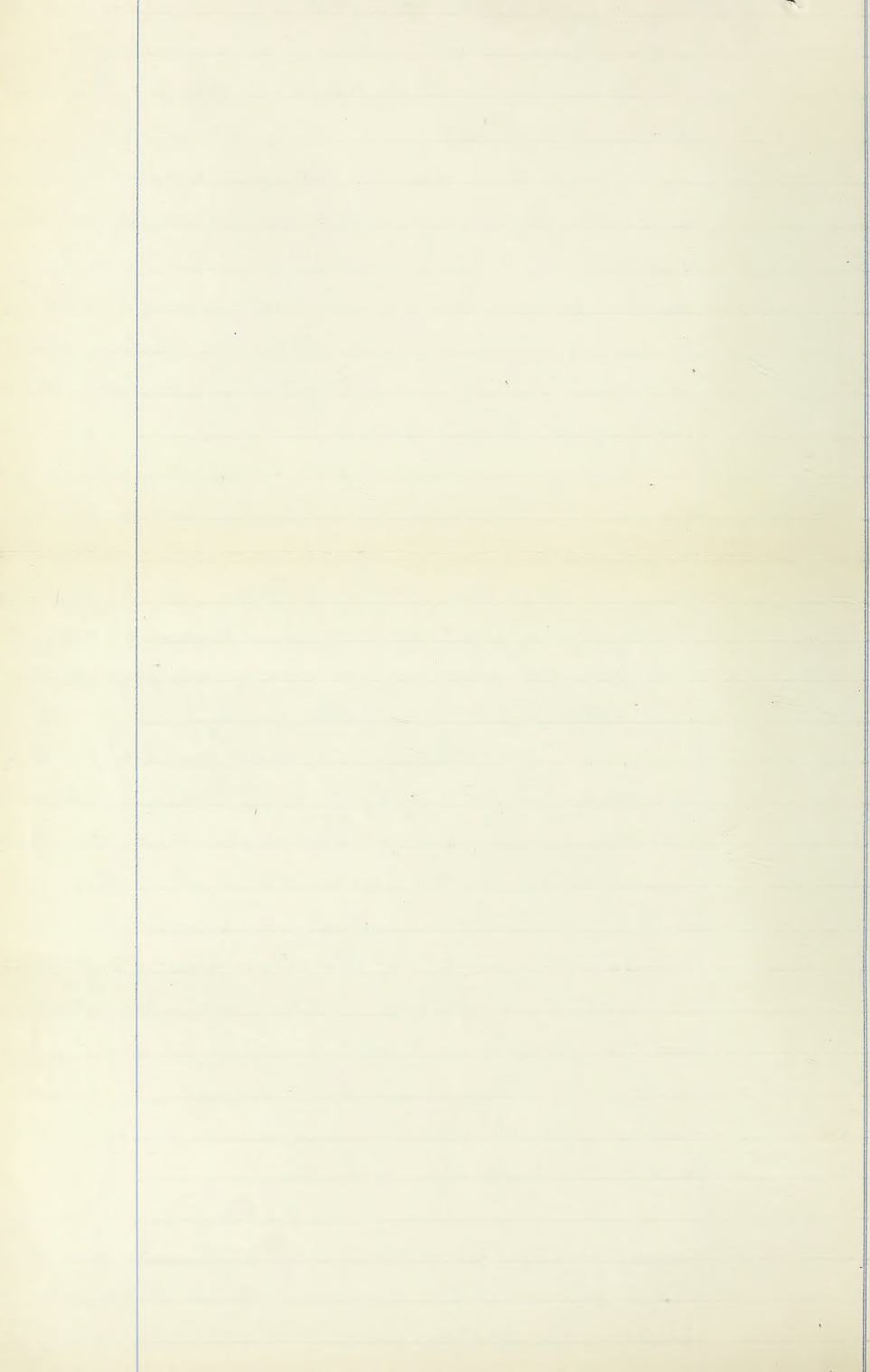
Asylum, 4 deaths being indirectly attributed to it, and one death directly. There were 3 deaths from membranous croup certified in the Western district during this period.

During the second quarter 14 cases of scarlet fever were notified, 12 occurring at Aberkenfig & Tondur, & two at Ewenny; this last being an isolated outbreak which did not spread. Ten cases of enteric fever notified, all in the Western district; one fatal. All at Tondur, & Aberkenfig, except three occurring at Kenfig-hill.

The need of satisfactory drainage of the former villages is glaringly apparent & the want of improved water supply at the latter place was recommended to your consideration in the report for last year. A fatal case of membranous croup took place at Laleston. Four cases of erysipelas were notified, all from Aberkenfig.

During the third quarter 19 cases of enteric fever notified, 17 in the Western district and two in the Central. Five cases of scarlet fever two at Tondur in the Western district & three at Coity in the Central. Two cases of puerperal fever notified, one recovered, the other proved fatal. In both cases the bed, bedding, &c. were destroyed and compensation given. Disinfection was also carried out. Two cases of erysipelas in Western district. At the Asylum one death preceded by, and one directly due, to influenza.

During the last quarter 15 cases of scarlet fever, somewhat widely diffused. Two in the Central, one at Coity, & one at Wick. Thirteen in the Western, six at Cefn Cidrur & Kenfig-hill, one at

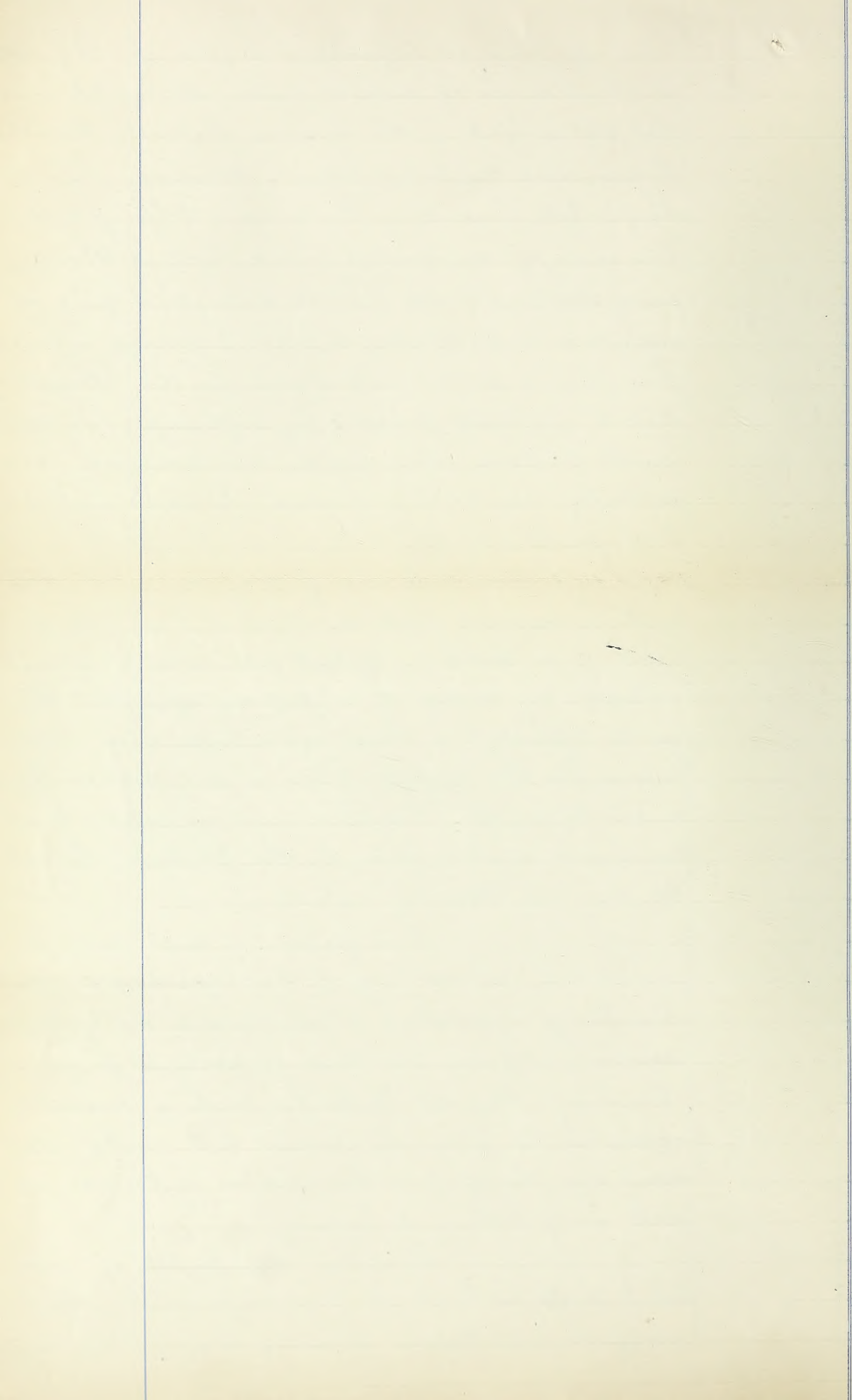


Aberkenfig, one at Coyrhaken, & five at Brynethin. Fourteen cases of enteric fever, all except one, that died at Wick, in the Western district; the other thirteen were distributed between Aberkenfig, Tondur, Kenfig-hill, Coyrhaken, Pultandras, & Brynethin. Two cases of membranous croup, both at Aberkenfig, one of diphtheria in the Central district, & four of erysipelas in the Western district. Influenza was at this time somewhat widespread. In the Maesteg district one death preceded by influenza was reported. In the Western three deaths, two indirectly, one indirectly, due to this disease. In the Central, one death, preceded by it.

In the face of so much and such widespread infectious disease I cannot but regret your decision of last year not to provide isolation by means of a properly appointed Hospital for the district, & I must again hope you will reconsider the subject. There is one matter for congratulation, viz. that there were no deaths from measles nor scarlet fever in the Western, Central, Afmore, nor Maesteg districts.

Disinfection is most inadequately carried out due to the fact that you have no disinfecting apparatus & that no one on your sanitary staff has the time properly to perform this duty. Had the Authority such a movable apparatus the man who attended to it could also carry out the effective disinfection of houses as well as of clothing & bedding."

Since the appointment of your Sub-Inspector at Aberkenfig numerous cases have received satisfactory disinfection according to my directions.

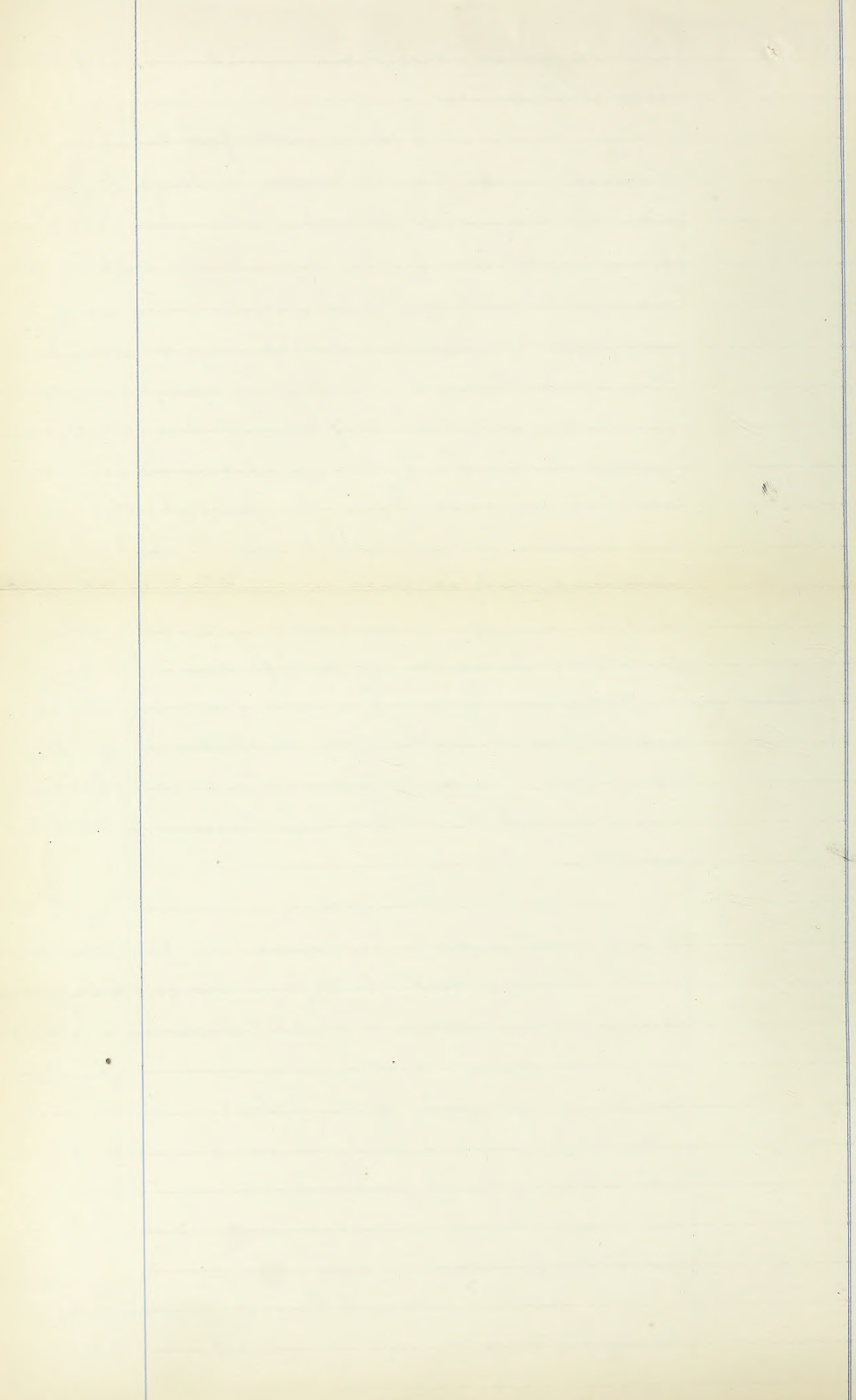


The Inspector also has carried this out in several instances.

I recommend for houses, the thorough washing of the walls, ceilings & floors with the mercurial solution advised by the Local Government Board, the burning of sulphur in the sealed rooms, the removal & burning of wall paper & thorough white lining, & afterwards thorough ventilation by means of open windows. For clothes, &c. that they should be totally immersed in the L. G. B. solution immediately on their removal from the patient, then boiled and eventually hung out to dry in the open air. For disinfection of privies & cess-pools, lime-chloride is used, & carbolic acid for other purposes. In cases of so infectious & fatal a disease as puerperal fever I advise burning the bed, bed clothes, & clothing, in the absence of a proper disinfectory, & also in cases of enteric fever where the bed & clothes have become soiled by excretions.

During the quarter ending the 31st March, four deaths were caused by zymotic disease in the Western district & four preceded by influenza at the Asylum. There had been a satisfactory diminution of zymotic disease throughout the quarter in all parts of the district with the exception of the Western sub-district in which scarlet fever had prevailed largely, especially through February, and during March several cases of enteric fever and diphtheria arose.

Several houses & premises at Abberkenfi were visited & reported to your

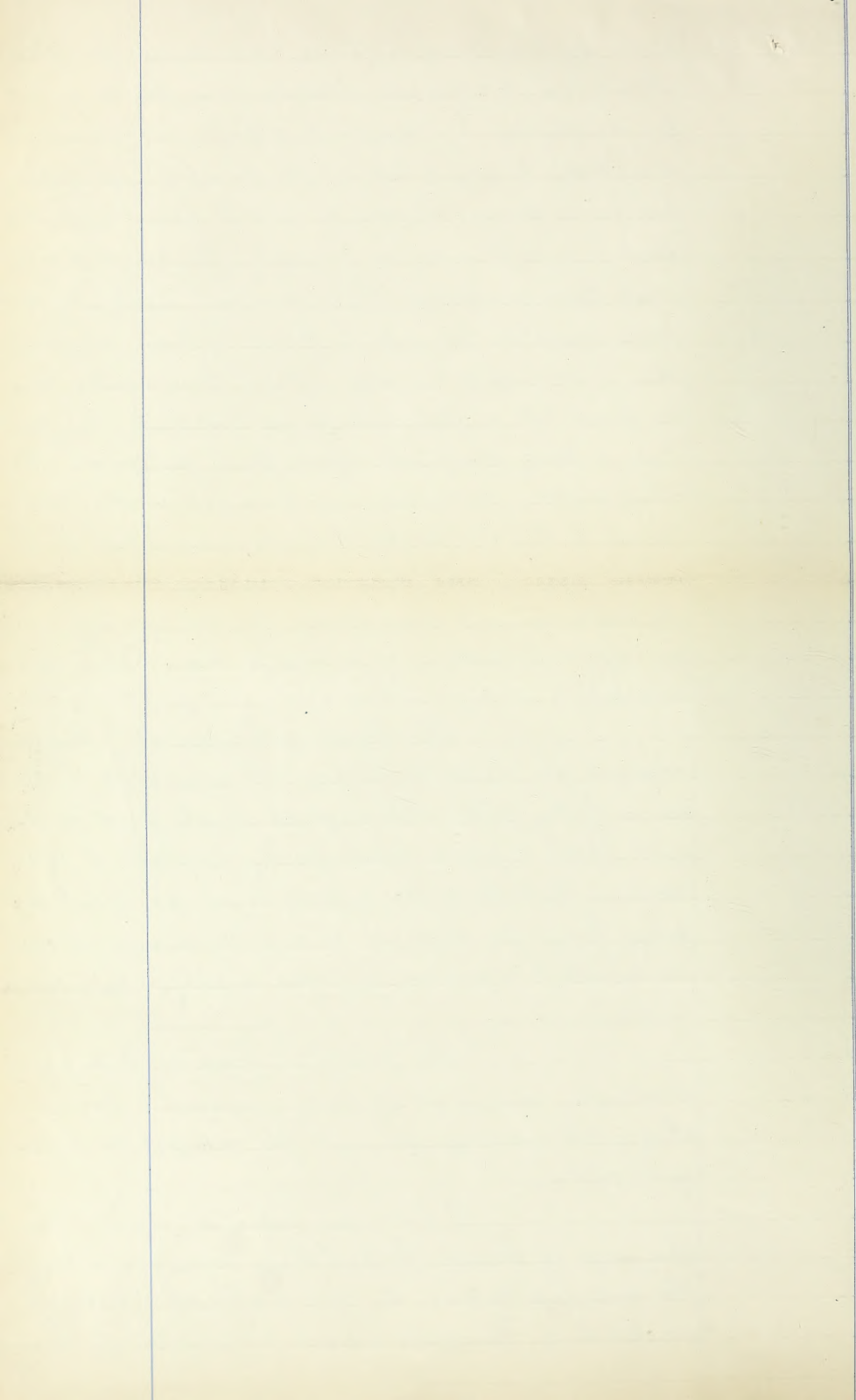


Authority & in some instances were closed pending alterations. I reported Station-row, Tonde unfit for occupation by reason of certain nuisances I described, & added that - "the inmates were seldom free from illness. A case of enteric fever occurred in April & sore throats are frequent. The sewage of the whole row of cottages finds its way eventually to the open space of ground in front of them rendering this a morass of sewage & from here soaks through the fence into a ditch, which is nothing in fact but a long stagnant, open foul cesspool. This abominable nuisance was brought under the notice of the Authority & steps were taken for its abatement, but as there is nowhere to drain to, the improvement can only be temporary until an efficient system of sewerage has been constructed."

The block of houses at Burgooch reported at intervals since 1886 were still in the same filthy state, with unpaved back yard sordid with slops & refuse & polluted by poultry. I still contend that the water supply is at too great distance from the houses & that the owner should be compelled to provide a proper supply, which exists at their doors.

The privies in front of Jenkins'-row, Aberkenfig, continued as dirty as usual. Crown-row, Kenfig-hill, was reported unfit for occupation by reason of dilapidation.

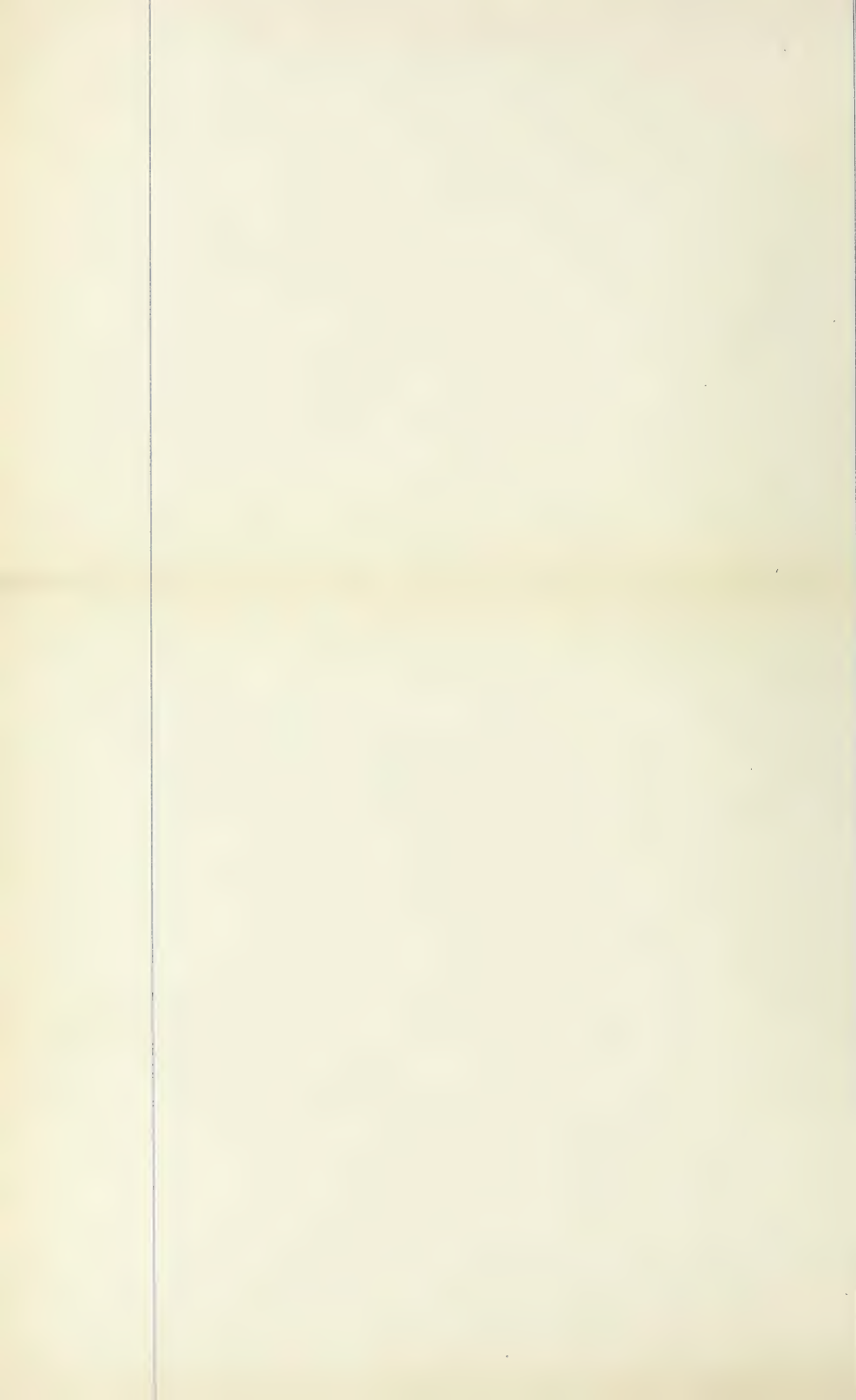
I had been asked to report upon the drainage of Lencoe. "This I have done annually for the last five years." In 1888 I reported that the condition of the water course flowing through Lencoe



had been complained of & after inspection found several sources of pollution; notices to abate the nuisance were served & in the case of a slaughter house this object was attained. In 1889 in connection with two cases of enteric fever I again advised that notice should be served upon the owners of certain premises to abate the nuisance. In 1890 in consequence of continued pollution I advised that notice should be served. In 1891 I reported that pollution still took place. In 1892 I wrote: - "The water course at Leucoed was in its usual filthy state & that I was convinced from what I saw that considerable pollution was still taking place," and I added - "Seeing that for all these years the Authority had been quite unable to prevent the pollution and knowing that drainage is an absolute necessity for the village, the only course appears to me that your Authority should construct a proper surface drain with sufficient fall to carry away the slops, to some convenient field where distribution could be carried out & so this constantly recurring nuisance effectually be dealt with." A scheme of drainage has since been before the Authority & I hope will soon be constructed.

During the June quarter a death from enteric fever & one from croup occurred in the Western district, & a death from diarrhoea and one from whooping cough in the Central.

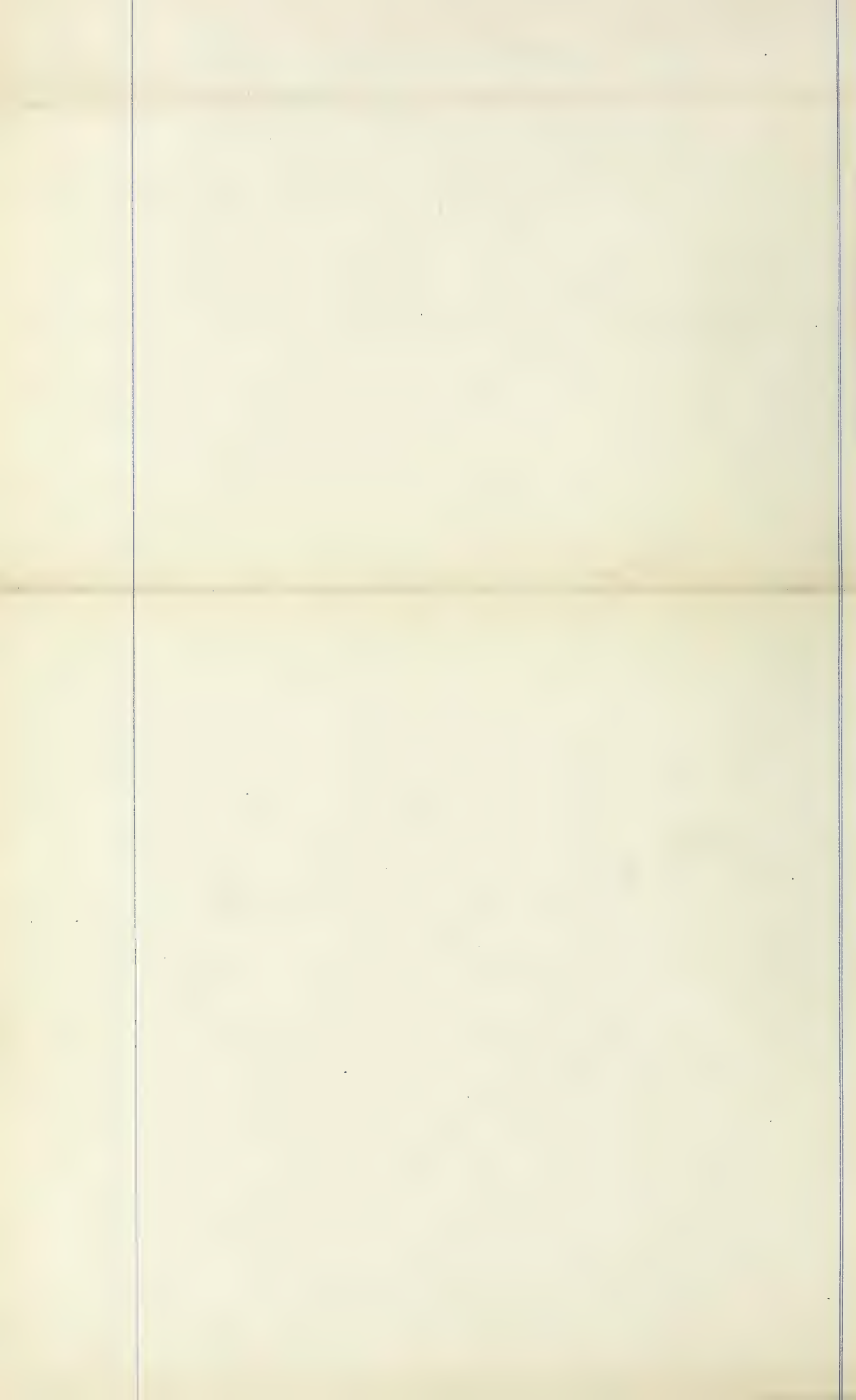
Scarcity of water had been a matter of complaint from many parts of the district, among other places Southendown and St. Brides Major in particular had suffered.



much from this want; in many instances water had to be carted two or three miles from the Ewermy River. If a scheme for a water supply could be adopted, it would be a valuable boon to these villages. I visited Southerndown in respect to nuisance from pig sty & cattle shed. The nuisance was abated shortly. I again alluded to the pollution of the water course at Lincroft.

Aberkefenig was again visited and certain cesspools overflowing towards houses at a lower level were reported to be nuisances. Sewage overflowing from cess-pits into a water course and converting this into an open cesspool were also reported. I then said "I must remind you that the above description of sewage disposal at Aberkefenig does not apply only to the comparatively few isolated instances reported upon but is fairly descriptive of the whole village, cesspools overflowing on to or deposited upon spots from whence it must reach the public streets is the general rule. The insanitary condition of Aberkefenig is so dangerous to health that I must again strongly advise your Authority to undertake the scavenging of the village, and also recommend that in all places where there is no drain or one defectively constructed, privies with receptacles raised above the surface of the ground should be insisted upon; the others being nuisances, to facilitate the removal of their contents and prevent pollution of the ground. A free sprinkling of all polluted surfaces with lime chloride would at the same time be advisable.

Cholera having already shown itself in France & Germany; & this neighbourhood not



being provided with any isolation accommodation, sewage pollution of air & soil being extensively prevalent & the "dirt conditions" necessary for the propagation of the disease already prepared, with typhoid fever leading the way, ^{Cholera} I fear would in this locality find numerous & unsuspecting victims. I am, therefore, sincerely glad that the draft of a conjoint scheme of sewerage between your Authority & the Bridgend Urban has been signed, as in this scheme the neighbourhood of Tondra and Aberkenfig is included.

In the September quarter a death from puerperal fever, one from diarrhoea & one preceded by influenza was recorded in the Central district; one from croup in the Western; and one from diarrhoea, preceded by influenza at the Dyffryn. During this quarter enteric fever had prevailed largely, more particularly at Tondra, Aberkenfig & Kenfig-hill. Twenty-five cases were notified; of these one occurred at Llanid, & one at the Cottage Homes, one at Wick, & the remaining cases in the Western district. There were two cases of membranous croup in Aberkenfig, both of which died. Eight cases of scarlet fever, four at Coity, two at Tondra, one at Aberkenfig & one at Kenfig-hill. One of erysipelas, and two of puerperal fever in both of which the bed & bedding was burnt & disinfectants supplied. The case of enteric fever at the Cottage Homes was worthy of notice as, I believe, it arose directly from drinking water from our polluted Ogmore River.

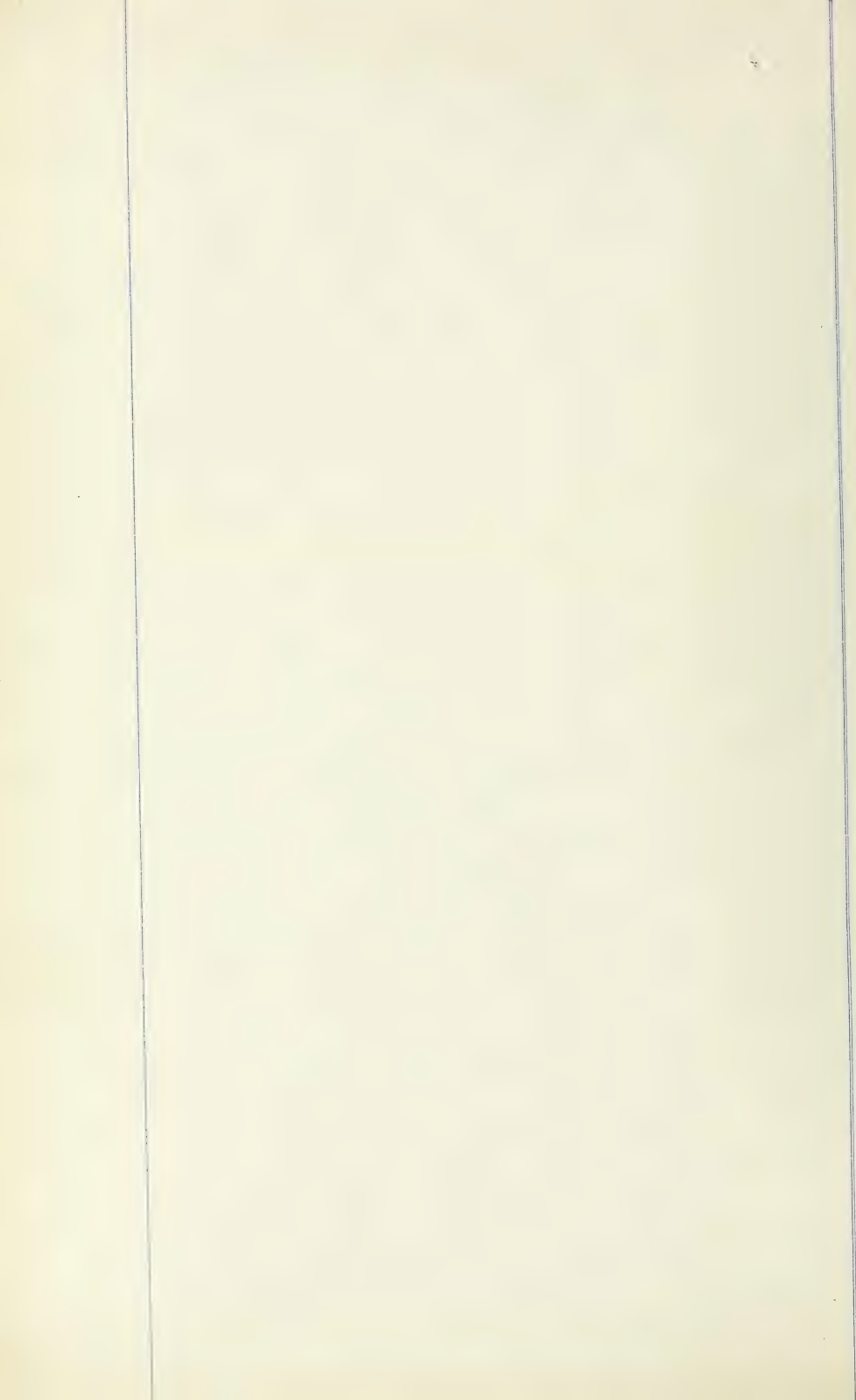
Early in July I accompanied the Medical Officer of the County Council in an inspection of a great part of the agricultural portion of



the Central sub-district. We visited Goychurch, Linsced, Leppridge, Gortowne, Emenny, St. Brides Major, Wick, & Broughton.

In July I visited Daleston, where a death from croup took place, I found pig styes too near the houses; these have been closed & a defective surface drain has been retained. A case of puerperal fever also occurred in this village which recovered. At this house a defective drain was found & ill constructed privies; the privies I advised should be reconstructed, with the floors of privies & receptacles raised above the surface of the ground. I added 'Privy accommodation in this district will never be less approximately satisfactory until your Authority insist upon this arrangement being the minimum you will accept as a privy conforming to the laws of health. Nearly all the privies at present in existence are, in my opinion, defectively constructed & are 'nuisances' in the legal meaning of the term.' I also reported upon certain structural alterations I considered advisable at the village well. The bed & bedding was burnt, other articles boiled after previous disinfection in L.G.D. solution and the room disinfected by burning sulphur and afterwards white washed & ventilated by means of open windows.

At 12, Park-road Atherkeping, four children had suffered from enteric fever in a house situated immediately above (these are back to back houses) 9, Jenkins-row, in which had been three cases of enteric fever I recommended the soiled bed & bedding, including the

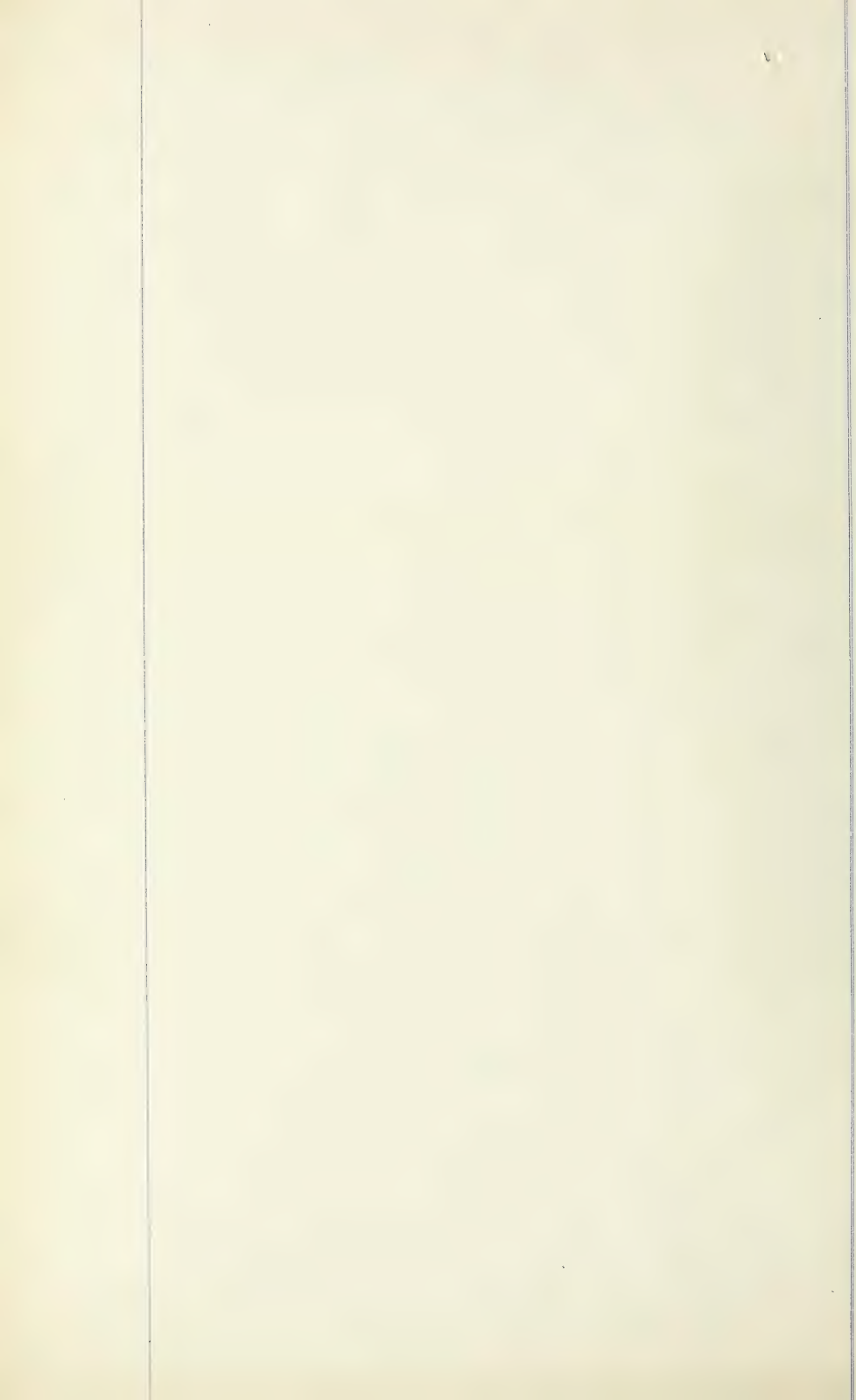


blankets should be burnt. A row of cottages in the Bridgend-road, Mlurkenfig, was condemned as "unfit" on account of dilapidation. Five cases of enteric fever had arisen at the Fountain, Mlurkenfig. The water supply was deficient and the privies were a nuisance. The water supply has been much improved by means of laying pipes from the spring, its source.

During the last quarter a death was registered as preceded by influenza in the Central district. In the Maesteg district, a death from croup & one preceded by influenza; and in the Western one death attributed directly to influenza & two indirectly. These deaths betoken that influenza prevailed widely through the whole district. Fifteen cases of scarlet fever were notified, one at Coity, one at Wick, & the remaining thirteen in the Western district. Fourteen cases of enteric fever, one at Wick, the remainder in the Western, and one of diphtheria in the Central; & four of erysipelas, all except one in the western district. These numerous cases of infectious disease point to the need of adequate isolation accommodation in the district, more particularly in the Western portion. "Cases of small pox now existing - so near us as Heath & Altherafon, emphasise this necessity."

A Local Government Board enquiry was held as to the want of an improved water supply at St. Brides Major and Louthendown, and I hope this will lead to that much desired result.

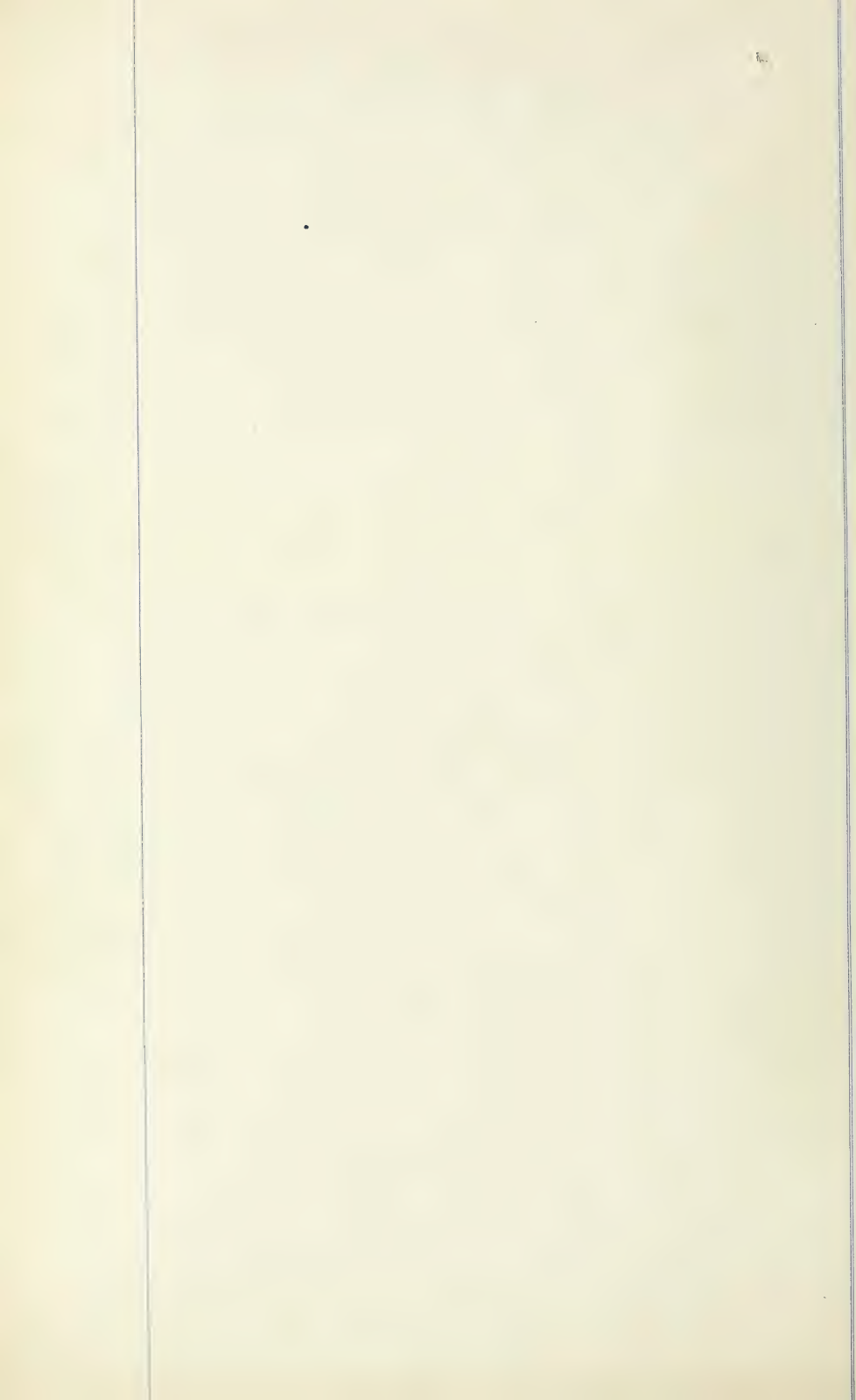
I believe that the adoption of



Part III of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act will materially tend to improve the health and safety of Alberkeufig & neighbourhood.

I inspected the surroundings of some cases of enteric fever at Keufig-hill. At a house at Morfa-row, I found offensive privies with huge cess-pits beneath. They were difficult or impossible to clean, they had not been emptied for twenty years. No provision for slops & surface drainage behind the houses. All these cases of enteric fever are probably due to the effluvia from decomposing fecal matter; at any rate here, ~~as~~ the privies are dilapidated and the stench rises through the defective floors so that persons using them would be bathed in polluted air. The above case though perhaps a somewhat exaggerated instance of the mode of dealing with excrementations matter in the district shows the urgent need for your Authority to enforce sections 72 to 78 of your bye-laws as to privy construction, or to obtain such powers if they do not apply to the localities where such powers are required. Parts of Keufig-hill, as I have stated previously would be much benefited by an improved water supply.

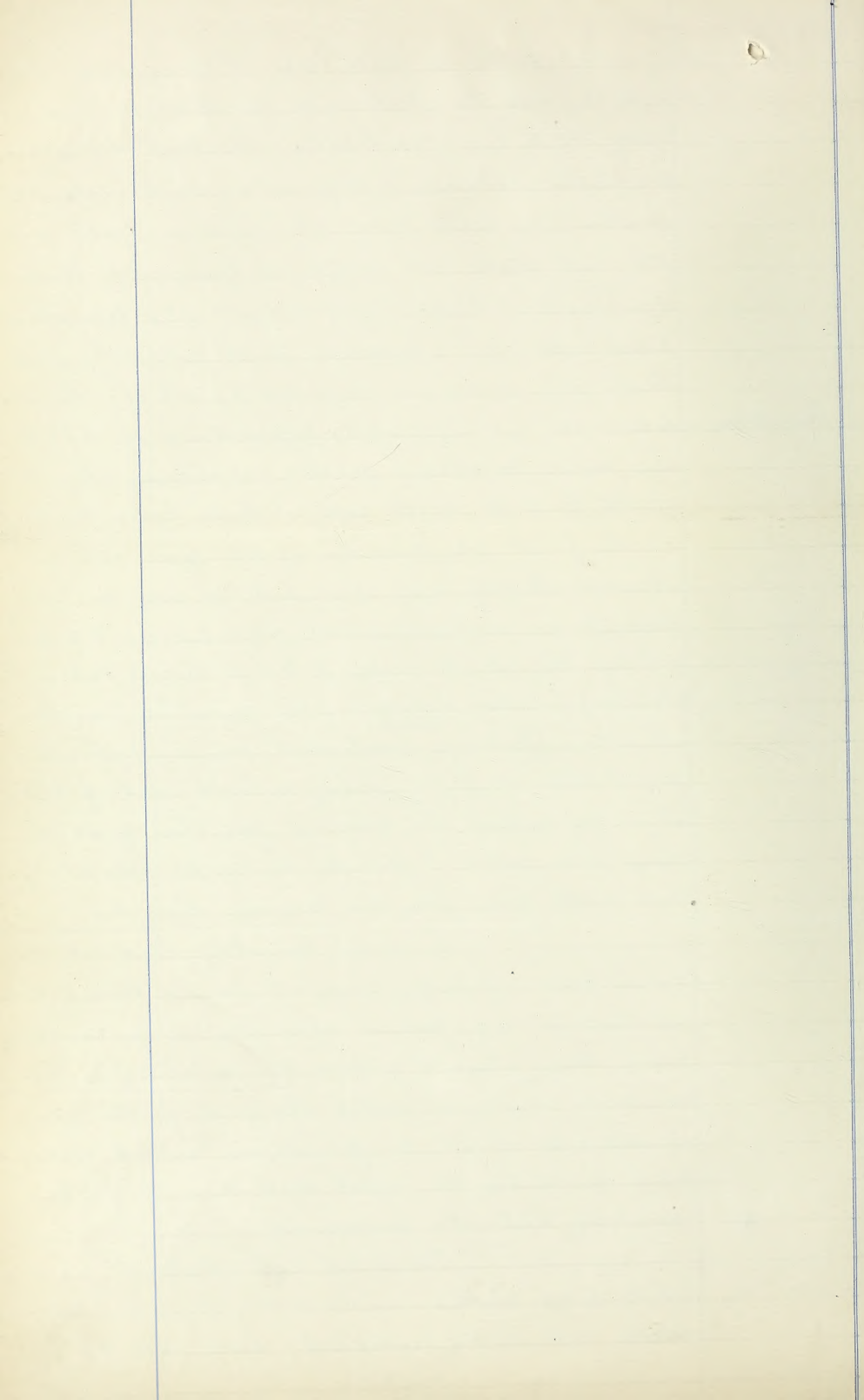
In regard to the statistical return of births & deaths - In the Ogmore Division there were 61 births: 32 males & 29 females; giving a birth rate of 28.5; deaths 34 giving a death rate of 15.9; zymotic death rate 74 per 1000; and a death rate for children under one year of age of 163.9 per 1000 births. Maesteg division: 39 births - 18 males & 21 females, giving a birth rate



of 33'4; deaths 13; death rate 11'1; zymotic death rate '8; and the death rate of children under one year 102'5 per 1000 births. Central division: 110 births - 60 males & 50 females; birth rate 33'1; deaths 53; death rate 15'7; zymotic death rate 1'2; and death rate under one year, 90'9. Western division 272 births - 133 males & 139 females; birth rate 33'2. Zymotic death rate 1'7; and death rate under one year 128'6; all of the above in this division taken on an estimated population of 8176. In order to obtain greater accuracy than this in the general death rate, I have taken the deaths in the first six months of the year when Newton Cottage was included in my sanitary district on an estimated population 8201 giving the death rate 8'6. I have taken the deaths in the second six months with ^{deaths} Newton Cottage excluded on an estimated population of 8176, giving a death rate of 5'5. Then by taking the average for the year of these two rates, I obtain an approximately true death rate for the Western division of 11'1.

I would humbly but at the same time strongly suggest to the County Council that in any future alterations of sanitary areas, they should allow the existing arrangements to continue until the end of the year in order to avoid complications which certainly tend to vitiate the vital statistics of both sanitary districts concerned.

The rural sub-district as a whole 482 births - males 243, females, 239; birth rate 32'5; deaths 215; death rate 14'5;



zymotic death rate 1'3; and death rate under
one year 122'4.

I beg to notice the considerable decrease in the death rate this year, and hope it will continue; but fear it is only the temporary effect of non-permanent causes. Although the death rate last year, which included 112 deaths at Park Slip, Col. lying explosion, being about the same as the previous two years tends to suggest a decrease distinctly marked in 1892.

I beg to remain, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,
Wynham Randall
M. C. H.

Bridgend, 1st March, 1894.

